

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-13 H-01 L-03 PRS-01
PA-01 USIA-06 CEA-01 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
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USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

PASS TREASURY FOR ZINMAN

E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS 12/15/77
TAGS: EAID, EFIN
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF MEMBERS OF ADB BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO
DEVELOPMENT MEMBER COUNTRIES

1. ADB DOC. WORKING PAPER 10-76 ON ABOVE SUBJECT WAS
POUCHED DECEMBER 9 AND WILL BE CONSIDERED BY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS IN MID-JANUARY. NAC GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED.
2. FOR SEVERAL YEARS, MANY DIRECTORS HAVE URGED BANK
MANAGEMENT TO PUT IN EFFECT PROGRAM WHICH WOULD PERMIT
BANK-FINANCED TRAVEL BY BOARD MEMBERS TO DEVELOPING
MEMBER COUNTRIES (DMCS) FOR PURPOSE OF GAINING
GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND PROBLEMS
OF DMCS VISITED. RECENTLY, PRESSURE FOR SUCH A SCHEME
HAS INCREASED TO POINT WHERE MANAGEMENT FELT IT WAS
PRUDENT TO BRING A PROPOSAL TO BOARD FOR FORMAL CONSIDERATION.

FYI: U.S. DIRECTOR DEFUSED EFFORT BY SEVERAL DIRECTORS
TO OBTAIN INFORMAL BOARD APPROVAL WITHOUT FORMAL
REFERRAL TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. END FYI.

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3. PROPOSED GUIDELINES WOULD PERMIT GROUP TRAVEL,

NORMALLY NOT EXCEEDING FOUR MEMBERS FOR PERIOD NO LONGER THAN ABOUT TWO WEEKS AND (EXCEPT IF NECESSARY IN TRAVEL) TO NO MORE THAN TWO COUNTRIES. SUCH TRAVEL SHOULD BE LIMITED TO NOT MORE THAN TWO GROUPS PER ANNUM. IN A YEAR WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO ORGANIZE GROUP TRAVEL FOLLOWING AN ANNUAL MEETING IN A DMC OTHER THAN PHILIPPINES,, ONLY ONE GROUP SHOULD TRAVEL FROM MANILA. AT U.S. DIRECTOR'S URGING, PROPOSED GUIDELINES ALSO PROVIDE FOR MEETING INTERNAL TRAVEL AND OTHER LOCATION COSTS FROM ARTICLE 6.2(B) CONTRIBUTIONS WHERE APPROPRIATE, AND FOR AIR TRAVEL TO BE BY ECONOMY CLASS.

4. PROPOSED GUIDELINES WOULD ALSO AUTHORIZE NON-GROUP TRAVEL BY BOARD MEMBERS. UNDER THIS ARRANGMENT, BOARD MEMBERS TRAVELING FOR BANK PURPOSES (E.G., ANNUAL VISITS TO COUNTRIES THEY REPRESENT) COULD UNDERTAKE STOPOVERS OF UP TO TEN DAYS PROVIDED IT IS CONVENIENT TO HOST COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, BOARD MEMBERS AVAILAING OF THIS FACILITY WOULD BE LIMITED TO SUBSISTENCE AND INTERNAL TRAVEL COSTS, CHARGEABLE WHERE APPROPRIATE TO ARTICLE 6.2(B) FUNDS.

5. ON BASIS OF PRESENT ECONOMY CLASS TRAVEL COSTS AND PER DIEM RATES, AVERAGE COST OF SCHEME IN YEAR WHEN TRAVEL BY TWO GROUPS IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH TRAVEL AT TIME OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD OUTSIDE MANILA IS ESTIMATED AT \$28,000 (\$16,000 FOR TWO GROUPS OF FOUR PERSONS PER YEAR PLUS \$12,000 FOR 16 INDIVIDUAL STOPOVER VISISTS PER YEAR). IF PREFERRED SCHEME INVOLVES ONLY STOPOVERS AND NO GROUP TRAVEL, COST, ON BAIS OF ONE STOPOVER FOR EACH MEMBER EVERY YEAR, WOULD BE ABOUT \$18,000.

6. COMMENT: USADB BELIEVES MAJORITY OF DIRECTORS WILL PROBABLY OPT FOR BOTH GROUP AND NON-GROUP TRAVEL. IF THIS VIEW IS BORNE OUT, USADB SUGGESTS THAT BEST STRATEGY WOULD APPEAR TO BE STRONG SUPPORT FOR LIMITING TRAVEL TO ECONOMY CLASS AND USE OF ARTICLE 6.2(B) FUNDS.

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